

REMARKS

Status of the claims

Claims 8, 10 and 12-77 remain in the application.

Claim 9 is cancelled.

Claims 8, 10, 17, 50, 59, and 60 are amended.

THE OFFICE ACTION

Claims 50 and 62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,863,702 to Sepke, et al.

Claims 8-10, 12, 14-16, 19, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,269,518 to Yung in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,003,196 to Wright, et al.

Claim 61 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Sepke in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,307,538 to Rench, et al.

Claims 13, 18, 21, 23-49, 51-58, 63, and 65-77 were allowed.

Claims 17, 59, and 60 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were considered to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

For the reasons outlined below, it is submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 8 has been amended to recite a vacuum cleaner which includes a cyclonic airflow chamber including an axial chamber outlet, a suction duct connecting the axial chamber outlet with a suction source housing. The suction duct extends downward along an axis of the cyclonic airflow chamber with a filter assembly surrounding the suction duct. A suction source includes a suction inlet communicating with the suction duct.

The references of record do not disclose or fairly suggest such a vacuum cleaner. Yung discloses a bagless vacuum cleaner with a collection unit 16. Air exits the collection unit via ductwork 92 which extends upwardly in a direction away from the air blower motor 28, then skirts around an the side of the collection chamber (FIGS. 1 and 2). The exposed ductwork of Yung can create significant amounts of noise due to

the air movement therethrough. Moreover, Yung shows a long airpath leading to the motor. In contrast, in the presently claimed system, a suction duct which extends along an axis of the cyclonic airflow chamber and is surrounded by a filter assembly can be surrounded by structural components of the vacuum cleaner which mitigate the noise level. Also, the short airpath results in a more efficient design.

Wright does not solve the deficiencies of the primary reference. In Wright, the suction duct 46 is situated at a rear of the vacuum cleaner.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 8-10, 12-16, and 19-20 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 17, which was considered to contain allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form, including subject matter of claims 1 and 16. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 17 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 50 has been amended to incorporate claim 59, which was considered to be allowable. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 50, and dependent claims 60-61, are now in condition for allowance.

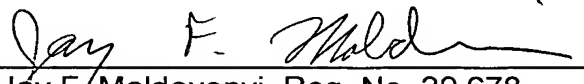
CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 8, 10, 12-21, 23-63, and 65-77) are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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